(b) The mail box scheme has been introduced to expedite and improve delivery of mail.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Government is reviewing the order to make suitable modifications taking account of the various difficulties expressed by the representationists.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra

89. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of new electronic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Maharashtra during the year 1992 and the number of such exchanges earmarked for Pune district?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): 354 new electronic exchanges of various types are likely to be set up during 1992 in Maharashtra. Of these, 21 Nos. have been earmarked for Pune district.

Setting up of a Speed Post Corporation

90. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to set up a separate "Speed Post Corporations";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when this Corporation will start its functioning;

(d) what are the names of the cities in the country where the facilities of 'Speed Post' will be provided under this scheme; and

(e) what plan is being formulated by Government for the immediate delivery of letters and parcels?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A departmental Committee was set up recently to examine this issue and the Committee has since submitted its report, which is under the consideration of the Government.

(e) In order to cater to the requirement of immediate delivery of letters/parcels speed post services have already been provided in 61 key commercial centres inter linking them with each other and in another 340 pairs of stations on point to point basis. The coverage under speed post network is being increased progressively.

Public Telephone Booths in Students Hostels

91. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing card operated public telephone booths in all the students hostels of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to cover all the students' hostels irrespective of their being in schools, colleges and universities;

(c) what is the number of student hostels in the State of Madhya Pradesh which have been provided with card operated public telephones, so far; and

(d) by when all the remaining students' hostels in Madhya Pradesh will be provided such telephones?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No Sir, there is no proposal to provide card operated Public Telephone Booths in all Student hostels. However, the Government has recently liberalised the procedure for opening of public telephone booths with a view to increase the availability of as well as accessibility to such facilities in all places including student hostels through out the country. The public telephone booths that are provided may be either card/coin operated type or ordinary type with electronic display and printer facility/call logger.

(b) Priority will be gievn to provide

public telephone booths at student hostels progressively on franchise basis.

(c) 21 student hostels have been provided with public telephone facility.

(d) As stated in (b) above.

Automation of Telephone Exchanges

92. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States in the country have all their telephone exchanges converted into automatic ones;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of telephone exchange in the State of Madhya Pradesh that have been converted into automatic ones; and

(d) by when rest of the telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh would be converted into automatic ones?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The information is given in the statement attached [*See* below].

(c) and (d) As on 31.3.91, there were 94 Manual Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh 28 out of these have been converted into electronic exchanges upto 31.1.92. As per objectives of Draft 8th Plan, the remaining Manual Exchanges will be converted into automatic by March, 1994.

Statement

The following States and Union Territories have all their telephone exchanges converted into automatic ones:

Sl. No.	States
1.	Karnataka
2.	Orissa
3.	Kerala
4.	Goa
5.	Sikkim
6.	Manipur
7.	Meghalaya
8.	Arunachal Pradesh
9.	Mizoram
10.	Tripura

Sl. No.	Union Territories
1.	Delhi
2.	Daman & Diu
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
4.	Chandigarh
5.	Pondicherry
6.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
7.	Lakshdweep

Pending Applications for Telephone Connection

93. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone connections sanctioned during the last five years State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) what is the number of applications for telephone connections pending with Government State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government have any scheme to step up sanction of telephone connections; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Number of telephone connections provided during the last five years and the waiting list of telephone connections as on 31.12.1991 are given in the Annexure.

(See Appendix CLXII, the Annexure No. 2)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Telecommunication has formulated draft 8th five year plan (1992-97) for